

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 /072 W

----- 026335

R 221718Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9821

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS BOGOTA 6850

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PN, CO

SUBJ: PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON PANAMA CANAL

1. IN HIS JULY 20 SPEECH TO THE SENATE, PRESIDENT LOPEZ  
TOOK PAINS TO EXPLAIN HIS ADMINISTRATION'S MARCH, 1975  
AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA PROMISING TO GUARANTEE COLOMBIA'S  
RIGHTS TO FREE MILITARY PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL ONCE PANAMA  
GAINS CONTROL OVER SUCH DECISIONS. LOPEZ POINTED OUT THAT  
COLOMBIA HAD THREE OPTIONS SEEK PRESSURE FROM THE U. S.  
TO FORCE PANAMA TO GRANT THE RIGHTS TO COLOMBIA, DEAL  
DIRECTLY WITH PANAMA, OR TAKE NO ACTION AT  
ALL. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ, AS A RESULT OF DEALING DIRECTLY  
WITH PANAMA, "THE RIGHTS OVER THE CANAL CONTAINED IN THE  
URRUTIA-THOMPSON TREATY, WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE ENTIRE  
TIME THAT THE U. S. IS IN A POSITION TO GUARANTEE THEM TO US...  
IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, PANAMA RECOVERS JURISDICTION OVER THE  
ZONE AND ASSUMES ADMINISTRATION OF THE CANAL WITHIN THE NEAR  
FUTURE, THE SAME RIGHTS WILL BE GRANTED TO COLOMBIA AND COSTA  
RICA AS A GESTURE OF FRATERNITY AND NEIGHBORLINESS,  
FOR WHICH COLOMBIA WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL. WHAT DO WE  
RENOUNCE? WE RENOUNCE DEMANDING RIGHTS FROM PANAMA  
BY WAY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE", ACCORDING  
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TO LOPEZ, "THOSE WHO HAVE DEALT WITH THIS PROBLEM...

CAN TOTALLY APPRECIATE THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS DIPLOMATIC  
VICTORY..."

2. AS A FURTHER DEFENSE OF THE AGREEMENT, LOPEZ POINTED  
OUT THAT, IF A U. S.-PANAMA TREATY IS SUBMITTED TO A  
POPULAR PLEBISCITE IN PANAMA, "WHO CAN DOUBT THAT, BETWEEN  
THE CONCESSION OF SPECIAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY NORTH  
AMERICAN PRESSURE, LIKE A VESTIGE OF THE FORMER DOMINON,  
AND BILATERAL AND SPONTANEOUS AGREEMENT...THE PEOPLE OF  
PANAMA WILL SUPPORT WITH GREATER ENTHUSIASM A  
SOLUTION IN WHICH COLOMBIA EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION TO  
DEAL WITH A SISTES NATION THAT HAS RECOVERED JURISDICTION  
OVER THE ENTIRETY OF ITS TERRITORY?"  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, CO, PQ, US, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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